



SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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JON ULRICH, DISTRICT 5

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Frank Hornstein
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for the TH 169/TH 282/CH 9 Interchange Project

Dear Representative Hornstein,

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I am communicating with you to support the funding request made for the US 169/TH 282/CH 9 Interchange Project ([HF1501](#)) in Jordan. We respectfully request that this project be strongly considered for inclusion in the final Transportation Conference Committee Omnibus bill. This funding request was indeed included in the Senate's version, and we were pleased to have received \$7 million in funds from the Regional Solicitation of Metropolitan Council's Transportation Advisory Board, making this interchange available for construction in 2025.

The requested \$2.5 million will be designated to assist with the final design, the necessary right of way acquisition, and the required environmental documentation.

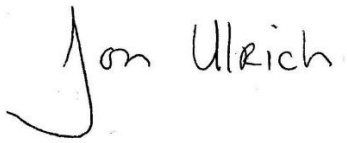
Our community – residents, businesses, and visitors alike -- deal with the safety impacts of an at-grade intersection that has nearly 70,000 vehicles a day passing through it and the City of Jordan. During my tenure in office as a Scott County Commissioner, there have been over 350 crashes, including five fatalities, at this intersection. Given the high percentage of trucks, even at the slowest speeds, these crashes can be quite devastating. As a small, tight-knit farming community, the City of Jordan's all-volunteer first responders often experience the trauma of witnessing family and friends involved in crashes at this intersection. An interchange at this location will greatly reduce the public safety risk to travelers in and through this area and serve to benefit the commerce that flows on US 169 through the region.

Scott County has partnered with the City of Jordan and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to complete this project. Collectively, these three agencies, along with impacted businesses, have spent the last 20 years collaborating on how to increase mobility and accessibility, and improve freight access on the U.S. Highway 169 corridor. The U.S. 169 Interchange Project is a collaboration to improve connectivity; reduce delay, congestion, and emissions; and make safer multimodal connections in the southwest Twin Cities region. The City of Jordan has a large cluster of commercial and industrial businesses, and U.S. Highway 169 is a key interregional corridor that is essential for commerce and industry, critical for connecting Minnesota businesses to both domestic and international markets. It supports 60 percent of Fortune 500 businesses and half of all Minnesota corn, soybean, and ethanol shipments travel along this corridor.

As such, the project partners have invested significant resources to develop a project concept to eliminate this signalized intersection to improve mobility and safety. Moreover, there is broad agency and stakeholder support for the interchange project at US 169/TH 282/CH 9, and the project partners have advanced the project into the final design and the environmental documentation phase. The only remaining factor in advancing the project is the remaining gap in funding.

By including the US 169/TH 282/CH 9 Interchange Project in the Transportation Bill, this vital improvement will remain on schedule to be completed in 2025. The beneficial impact of this project will not only reach the surrounding community but all those who traverse the US 169 corridor. I am most pleased to offer our support for the completion of the US 169/TH 282/CH 9 Interchange Project and ask that you consider its inclusion in the final Transportation Bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Ulrich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Scott County Board Chair Jon Ulrich
Commissioner, District 5